

Boston, Nov. 12, 1831. 11

My dear Friend:

Your letter of the 1st inst. was very gratifying to my feelings. In the first place, it conveyed to my ears "A Voice from Providence," against the Colonization Society, which I have long been wanting to hear. Secondly, it was a fresh witness of your benevolent zeal in the cause of truth and liberty. Thirdly, it contained something very much to cheer my heart in the statement that a change for the better was taking place in public sentiment at Providence. — Fourthly, it gave me a kind and urgent invitation to visit Providence, and expressed the interest which many of my friends felt to see and hear me.

I am sorry that I can give you in return only a few lines which are destitute of thought and distinguished for bad penmanship, (for I write in haste,) — but so it is. [A week's

hand labor has just closed, and my mind is too much exhausted for mental effort, and my body too jaded to be serviceable. My correspondence is necessarily extensive and onerous: pen, ink and paper throw me into a kind of intellectual hydrophobia, and so I avoid them as much as possible.

I do exceedingly regret to state, that the pressure of imperious duties will in all probability prevent me visiting your beautiful town the present season. If my health be preserved until the ensuing spring, I shall endeavor to see you without fail.

[I have now received from Washington, complete files of the African Repository, and shall for some time be busy in preparing my anti-colonization pamphlet for the press. I am also about to prepare an address to be delivered before the colored people of this city.

You may soon expect to hear of the formation of ^{an} anti-slavery society in this city, on principles steadfast as the pillars of truth. There are some staunch abolitionists

here, who are ready for action, and whom no dangers or scoffs can frighten. We can do comparatively little without a concentration of moral strength. With physical force we have, you know, nothing to do.]

Be good enough to say to Friend Simeon Brewer, that he may expect to receive a letter from me in the course of all next week. From what I hear of him, he is a sterling reformer, for whom I entertain the warmest attachment. I return him my very grateful thanks for the shelter which he offers me under his hospitable roof.

You will perceive by the Liberator that the people of the slave States are proceeding from one extremity to another. Instead of repenting of their evil doings, their conduct towards the slaves and free people of color grows worse and worse. The Lord have mercy upon our guilty land.

Mr. Knapp and my friend Coffin send their respects to you and your brother. You will both accept the assurances of my regard, ever remaining,
Yours, truly, Wm. Lloyd Garrison.

Wm. Lloyd Garrison
Nov 12th 1831 —
Boston —

Mr. Henry E. Benson,
Providence, R.I.